

ABSTRACT**METHOD OF PERFORMING TRANSACTIONS IN AN INFORMATION
5 TECHNOLOGY NETWORK**

Commercial objects sought in the course of transactions within an information
technology network are identified using a reference identifier which is unique within
the network. The identifier may additionally be used to locate a provider of such a
10 commercial object within the network. The identifier is stored in an e-services layer
of computing capability which is distributed across the network, and which provides
language independence as well as database functions to enable searching for providers
of goods or services available via the network. The identifier migrates with the
object, and information representative of the object (representative information), yet
15 does not itself change upon object metamorphosis. The identifier may be duplicated
where each instance of the identifier is equivalent *vis a vis* the object, but may not be
re-used to identify a different object

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